

# Northwoods Journal – June 2010

*A Free Publication About Enjoying and Protecting Marinette County's Outdoor Life*

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## Generous Donors Support Local Environmental Education Efforts



Thanks to the generosity of several local businesses and other organizations, the Teaching Outdoor Awareness & Discovery program, or "T.O.A.D.", will have some new equipment this year. T.O.A.D. has been around since 2001, and some of the equipment needed to be replaced. Other general nature study supplies like binoculars, guides, displays, and hands-on materials were also purchased.

Donors include the Aerial Company and the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, as well as the Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc. out of Milwaukee and the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) Region V. The Safari Club International Foundation granted us a "Safari in a Box", a mobile wildlife education kit that is available to check out for use by schools, youth groups, or other interested groups.

Since 2001, T.O.A.D. programs have been presented to over 25,000 people, primarily schoolchildren. These programs are available year-round and FREE to the public of Marinette County – for more information about what we offer, contact Anne Warren, Education Specialist, at 715-732-7784, or email [awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com).

## 2009 Land & Water Conservation Division Accomplishments

By Greg Cleereman, County Conservationist



2010 was another busy year for the Land & Water Conservation Division (LWCD). The LWCD is part of the Marinette County Land Information Department and consists of:

- County Conservationist* that directs and manages division activities
- Conservation Technician* that provides technical assistance to farmers working to protect water quality from runoff pollution
- Water Resources Specialist* that deals primarily with lake and stream water quality protection
- Education Specialist* that provides general environmental education as well as promotion of other departmental programs
- Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator* to expand and enhance efforts to control and/or prevent infestations
- Wildlife Damage Coordinator* that administers a WDNR funded program to minimize crop damage from wildlife and reimburse farmers for crop damage that does occur
- Program Assistant* that helps the staff and performs other office duties

We are dedicated to promoting the protection, restoration and wise use of our land & water resources. This article will give you a sense of how the LWCD is working on your behalf, and describe some of the services we provide. The discussion is not meant to be exhaustive, but highlights major program areas that might be most interesting to Northwoods Journal readers.

### Agricultural Runoff Pollution

Ending winter spreading of manure has long been the focus of the LWCD. The majority of fish kills and contaminated wells around the state in recent years have occurred during winter warm spells or during the spring thaw when manure, spread on snow covered or frozen ground, reaches groundwater or lakes and streams. To avoid winter manure spreading, the LWCD obtains cost sharing for farmers that voluntarily install best management practices such as manure storage facilities and barnyard runoff control structures. Having a properly sized manure storage facility allows farmers to spread manure at times (late spring and fall) when it can be injected into the soil or quickly plowed under.

In 2009, the LWCD provided state cost sharing, designed practices, and supervised practice installations for twelve cooperating landowners that installed:

- 3 Manure Storage Facilities
- 4 Barnyard Runoff Control Systems
- 3 Milking Center Waste Control Systems
- 5 Manure Transfer Systems

- 232 acres of Nutrient Management Planning
- 525 acres of Cropland Protection Cover
- 80 acres of Managed Intensive Grazing

Completing these projects ended winter manure spreading on 1700 cropland acres and brings the total acreage of Marinette County no longer winter spread with manure to more than 35,000 acres. More than \$546,000 in cost sharing was obtained for Marinette County farmers, providing a significant stimulus to the local agricultural economy. Some of these projects also leveraged additional Federal cost sharing as well.



*Example of a manure storage facility*

### Lakes and Streams and Aquatic Invasive Species

In the last several years, our efforts to assist water front property owners and control Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) have blended to the point of becoming inseparable. The invasive plants Giant Reed (*Phragmites australis*) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) have been especially problematic for hundreds of Marinette County riparian landowners. Under the theory that what is important to our citizens and landowners is important to us, the LWCD sought partnerships with state and federal agencies, other counties, local units of government, local service groups, and private citizens to begin controlling these invasive plants.



*Watercraft inspections are key to AIS prevention*

In the early summer, we sponsored *Clean Boats Clean Waters* and *Citizen Lake Monitoring Network* workshops to educate citizens about the threats of AIS to our waters. The workshops trained citizens how to perform watercraft inspections, take boater surveys at boat landings, and actively monitor for invasive species in and around lakes and rivers. Citizen volunteers are crucial to our prevention efforts, so thank you to all that donated time to keep our waters healthy. The good news is that we did not find any new Eurasian water milfoil or Zebra Mussel infestations in our waters.

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### Accomplishments, continued

In 2009, the Federal government announced the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to repair and improve the health of the Great Lakes. One of the grants offered under the initiative was for control of invasive species. Marinette County became a partner in an application for an \$805 million, three-year grant to fight phragmites along Green Bay. Much of the fall and early winter in 2009 was spent coordinating with grant partners and helping with grant development. At this writing, we are still waiting to hear the result of the application.



*Phragmites along shoreline*

A lot of effort also went into wetland invasive species education, identification, and prevention in the County. We mapped the Phragmites infestation along the shoreline of Green Bay and sent out more than four hundred surveys and information packets to better understand the concerns of property owners. Last year, over 30 property owners had Phragmites treated and cut by contractors, and we will follow up that effort this year.

State rules for managing aquatic plants in Wisconsin require creation of a management plan that takes into consideration the importance of native aquatic plants and the effects of plant management activities. LWCD staff completed several of these in 2009. Management plans for specific lakes can be found at the county website, [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com). Go to 'Departments', then 'Land Information', and then 'Lake Associations'. Most of our lake projects and AIS control efforts are funded by grants received from the WDNR.

Major completed surface water projects include:

- ☞ Lake Noquebay Comprehensive Management Plan
- ☞ Sandstone Flowage Aquatic Plant Management Plan
- ☞ Countywide Lake Classification Grant to expand citizen monitoring of lakes, lay the groundwork for a long-term effort to monitor the effects of shoreline development on the wildlife and native plant communities of specific lakes.
- ☞ Little Newton Lake Rapid Response Project to eradicate a new Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) infestation. Follow-up monitoring did not detect continued presence of EWM. Everyone is hopeful that we did indeed eradicate this invasive plant.
- ☞ Beecher Lake EWM management plan and grant to assist the District with implementation of the plan. The District will continue treating EWM with aquatic herbicides and conduct a winter drawdown to test its effectiveness as an EWM management tool.

New grant funding was secured to assist the City of Peshtigo and Thunder Lake Association for developing long-range plans for managing aquatic invasive species. These projects will be implemented in 2010.

Last summer, in partnership with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and WDNR, the LWCD performed an inventory of all the Pike River crossings. 242 stream crossings, affecting 200 miles of stream, were examined to determine the degree of obstruction for fish. This data was entered into a computer model and will be used to prioritize the culverts for reinstallation to allow

fish free passage. Seasonal movement of walleye and salmon, in the form of annual spawning runs, is well known to anglers. However, inland trout also make significant movements within streams to spawning or wintering areas, and anything that blocks the movement of adult or juvenile trout can impact their populations. Improperly installed road culverts are the main impediment to trout movement on many streams in Marinette County. Culverts can be "perched" above the true streambed; they can be tilted, longer than necessary, and often under sized. Any of these conditions can block off prime spawning or nursery areas for trout.



*Culvert along the Pike River*

### Environmental Education

The original rationale for the LWCD environmental education programming was provided by a quote from a Senegalese Ecologist who said, "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." Our programs seek to help people understand and appreciate nature, in part through exposing them to outdoor activities and natural wonders. Last year we delivered 170 *Teaching Outdoor Awareness and Discovery* (T.O.A.D.) programs to more than 5,058 individuals, a record number for the T.O.A.D. program.



*Looking for aquatic macroinvertebrates*

The programs are mobile and consist of many different types of equipment and materials that LWCD staff can bring to any location chosen by a teacher, scout leader, etc. Hip waders, nets, water quality testing equipment, binoculars, mammal pelts and skulls, and identification guides are examples of some of the materials that we use to help educate the public. The *Environmental Resources Center* is our collection of environmental education curriculum, guides, books, magazines, and audio resources, all available to the public to borrow for free. T.O.A.D. programs have been delivered to schools in every Marinette County school district. Having one full set of equipment, available to all schools, instead of partial sets at multiple schools is a much better use of limited funds. Other groups that utilize TOAD programs include home schools, scouts, 4H, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, outdoor/sportsman's' groups, day care & nursing home facilities, and public libraries.

In addition to the T.O.A.D. program, we administer Harmony Arboretum, located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. This 460-acre property has a prairie, an interpretive nature trail through old growth hardwoods, and a diverse native plant community. The LWCD works with

the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association, Chappee Rapids Chapter of the Audubon Society, Marinette County UW-Extension, WDNR and other agencies to offer recreational and educational opportunities. The centerpiece of the property is the demonstration garden, built and improved through the tireless efforts of the Master Gardeners and UW-Extension staff. The demonstration garden is always open, year-round, and free to the public.

Among the latest projects at Harmony is the creation of the *Children's Learning Garden* (CLG). The purpose of the CLG is to provide an opportunity for children to learn about gardening, experience nature up close, and gain a better appreciation for the natural world. So far, \$5,213.00 in grants and donations has been raised for this project. Installation of several educational elements in the CLG, including a wetlands area, has already begun, and ideally the CLG will be complete by September 2010.



*Conceptual sketch of the Children's Garden*

### 2009 Educational Highlights

- ☞ Presented environmental education programs to over 5,000 people
- ☞ Taught canoeing and kayaking skills to 182 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Peshtigo Elementary School
- ☞ Held the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp for 82 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders, who learned about conservation concepts and outdoor skills
- ☞ Held the annual Environmental Field Days for 367 4<sup>th</sup> graders, where students learned about 8 different conservation topics at four different sites throughout the county
- ☞ Provided an extensive display at the Marinette County Fair promoting natural shoreline which featured live reptiles, amphibians, fish and aquatic insects and was visited by 2,065 people
- ☞ Sponsored the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Environmental Poster Contest, in which 166 students, from grades K through 12, participated
- ☞ Completed our 4<sup>th</sup> year of offering the *Northwoods Journal* at local businesses. About 5,000 FREE papers were distributed each month from June through September

### Wildlife Damage and Abatement Program

The LWCD administers a WDNR program to help reimburse participating farmers for damage from wildlife such as White-tailed Deer, Black Bear, and Eastern Turkeys. The program is funded by part of deer hunting license fees and bonus permit sales. For many years, Marinette County has had some of the highest rates of crop damage by white-tailed deer of any county in Wisconsin.

The program provides hunters access to agricultural lands during regular hunting seasons for species causing agricultural damage and for which the participating farmer received crop damage reimbursement. Farmers that simply want to defend their crops without receiving reimbursement can apply for shooting permits to harvest a portion of the animals that are causing damage. For high value crops, landowners can apply for cost sharing for abatement practices including in some cases, wildlife proof fencing.

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## Citizen Lake Monitoring Workshop

**Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30–8:30pm**

Stephenson Town Hall, W11280  
County Hwy. X, Crivitz, WI

The first response to the threat of aquatic invasive species is prevention. When this doesn't work, early detection and rapid response offer the best hope for successful control or eradication. In recent years, our lakes have come under attack from several aquatic invasive species including Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Water Milfoil, and Hydrilla - one of the worst exotic lake plants in the country. To help in this fight, the Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division is sponsoring the **Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Workshop**.



Workshop presenters will provide details on invasive species identification, organizing an effective monitoring team, where and when to look for invasive species, and what to do if you suspect that you have found an invasive plant or animal. Participants will learn to identify and monitor the following invasives: Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, hydrilla, rusty crayfish, zebra mussels, Chinese and banded mystery snails, spiny and fishhook waterfleas, and freshwater jellyfish. The workshop includes a free monitoring kit (one free kit per lake). Additional kits may be purchased at a cost of \$65 (basic kit) to \$165 (advanced). **Early registration is required!**

Please contact Marinette County AIS Coordinator, Robert Ruleau at 715-732-7642 or Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7780 to sign up for the workshop. For more information, contact Laura Herman, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Coordinator, 715-365-8998 or [laura.herman@uwsp.edu](mailto:laura.herman@uwsp.edu).

## Annual Bird Hike at Harmony



Join Greg Cleereman, Marinette County Conservationist, on Saturday, June 12, at the Harmony Arboretum from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Learn to identify birds by sight and song and enjoy the scenery of the prairie and upland hardwoods. Over the years, about 80 bird species have been found here, including bobolink and black-billed cuckoo.

Binoculars and bird identification books will be available, but bring your own if you wish. The route is easy walking on internal trails and roads. Harmony Arboretum is located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. For more information, call the LWCD office at 715-

## Accomplishments, continued from page 2

Wildlife Damage program highlights included:



58 farms participated in the program, 40 of which received reimbursement for crop damage

Approximately 8,868 acres were appraised for damage

Approximately 6,440 acres were opened to public hunting

The main crops appraised were alfalfa and corn

2009 saw a large increase in the amount of crop damage caused by turkeys, mostly through the puncturing of feed silage bags

Marinette County had more crop acres damaged than any other county in Wisconsin

An adjunct to the Wildlife Damage Program is the Hunt for the Hungry Program, which pays the processing costs of deer that are donated by hunters. The resulting venison is ground up and given to local food pantries for distribution to those in need. Because of the elimination of the Earn-A-Buck and a significant drop in the number of bonus doe permits, only 88 deer were donated in 2009, resulting in approximately 3,500 pounds of ground venison.

For more information about our programs and services, please call the LWCD office at 715-732-7780. You can also visit us online at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com). Click on 'Departments', then 'Land Information', and then 'Land and Water Conservation'.

## Free Day at Marinette County Parks!

All Marinette County Parks, boat landings and day use areas will have free admission on **Saturday, June 5, 2010**. (Camping fees still apply.) The County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department operates eleven, large "developed" parks, six small "day use" parks/waysides, seven boat landings and a youth camp. Marinette County's self-guided "Waterfalls Tour" provides a fun, family-friendly way to get back to nature. Also families or individuals can enjoy ATVing, snowmobiling, hiking, biking, canoe and kayaking, hunting, fishing, and even whitewater rafting! There are 22 County Park properties to explore. **Below are the county parks you can visit that also offer campgrounds:**

**Twin Bridges Park** (94 Acres). Boasts the county's largest campground with 62 modern campsites all with electricity, shower/flush toilet building, a very large picnic area, playground, boating, swimming beach, fishing, and a scenic rock outcrop overlook of the High Falls Flowage on the Peshtigo River. Located 15 miles northwest of Crivitz.

**Morgan Park** (160 Acres). Offers a modern campground with electricity on all 32 campsites with a group campsite that is available by reservation, swimming beach and boat landing on Timm's Lake, lake and river fishing, a day use rental lodge, playground, rock outcroppings, an overlook, and a 2.5 mile hiking trail. Located in northeastern Marinette County.



Morgan Park campsite

**Goodman Park** (240 Acres). The main attraction is the bridge over Strong Falls and trout fishing on the Peshtigo River. A 15-site rustic (no electricity) campground with a group campsite that is available by reservation. There's a cabin for overnight stays, also available by reservation. Two lodges for day use rental, a hiking-skiing trail, huge red pines, and wonderful scenery. Located in northwestern Marinette County.

**McClintock Park** (320 Acres). Features rapids on the upper Peshtigo River in the picnic area. Two



Goodman Park cabin

small day use log cabins, trout fishing, picnic spots, a small campground, and an interesting hardwood-hemlock timber stand. The 10-site rustic (no electricity) campground located right along the Peshtigo River now provides direct ATV trail access, and is the county's only ATV campground. Located 4 miles south of Goodman Park.

**Veteran's Memorial Park** (320 Acres). The highlight of this park is 3 waterfalls on the Thunder River, which can be viewed at the scenic day use picnic area. Offers a bridge over the upper waterfall, a pool at the bottom of the falls, trout fishing, camping, and a large day use picnic area. Campground has 15 rustic (no electricity) campsites. Located about 15 miles west of Crivitz.

**12-Foot Falls Park** (160 Acres). Features 2 waterfalls (12 Foot and 8 Foot Falls) on the Pike River, picnic area below 12 Foot Falls, camping, trout fishing, and great scenery. Campground has 12 rustic (no electricity) campsites. Located in northern Marinette County on the North Branch of the Pike River.

A daily use fee of \$3 is required at park entrances, or a \$12 annual park sticker can be obtained from the Parks Department (camping fees are separate), located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Marinette County Courthouse. For maps & more information, please call the Parks office at (715) 732-7530, or visit online at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com).

## New Marinette County Parks Online Reservation System

Marinette County Parks & Forestry Reservations and Permits are now available online at: <http://www.marinettecounty.com/parks/>.

Reservations for Twin Bridges & Morgan Park Campgrounds, day use park lodge rentals, and overnight reservations for Goodman Park's Cabin can all be made at the new Online Parks Reservations Website. Fuelwood Permits for cutting firewood on County Forest land can also be purchased on the website.

The new system is very convenient – reservations can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and are accepted 11 months in advance instead of only

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## Clean Boats, Clean Waters Workshop



**Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 9am – Noon**  
 Stephenson Town Hall, W11280  
 County Hwy. X, Crivitz, WI

With the growing concern over the spread of aquatic invasive species in Marinette County, many lake association members and concerned citizens are looking for ways to get involved. The **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** volunteer watercraft inspection program assists Wisconsin residents in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership is offering training and resource kits to be used by volunteers at boat landings. The resource kit aids volunteers in educating boaters about aquatic invasive species, how they travel from lake to lake, and what can be done to prevent their spread. Additionally, these materials help volunteers establish a volunteer watercraft inspection program for their lake. This program is an opportunity for volunteers to take a frontline defense against aquatic invasive species. The **Clean Boats, Clean Waters** inspection program encourages boaters to take preventive measures to help stop the spread of invasives from lake to lake.

This workshop is one of a series of opportunities to receive training before the summer of 2010. Workshops are open to adults and youth. Adults or lake associations interested in participating and receiving a handbook and resource kit are strongly encouraged to work with a local youth partner. The workshop is free but a resource kit is available for \$25.00. The resource kit includes a handbook, watercraft inspection checklists, and educational materials to distribute to boaters. Early registration is required!

Please contact Marinette County AIS Coordinator, Robert Ruleau at 715-732-7642 or Marinette County Land and Water Conservation Division at 715-732-7780 to sign up for the workshop. For more information contact Erin Henegar, Aquatic Invasive Species Volunteer Coordinator, UW-Extension Lakes at 715-346-4978 or [erin.henegar@uwsp.edu](mailto:erin.henegar@uwsp.edu).

### Wisconsin Lakes Listening Sessions Available for Your Lake Association

Wisconsin Lakes, a non-profit organization of citizens, organizations and business members, is the only statewide organization dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and restoration of our state's lakes. Leaders from Wisconsin Lakes can come to member groups' meetings to give you an update on statewide lake policy issues, provide a chance to have an open discussion with us about your concerns, and to give us feedback on how we're doing from the standpoint of your organization.

If you're not a member group, we'd be happy come talk to you and give you a chance to learn more about Wisconsin Lakes to see if membership would be a good fit for your lake organization.

Wisconsin Lakes believes that by serving as the statewide advocacy voice for lake organizations as well as for individuals who love our lakes, we provide an effective and efficient means to conserve, enhance and protect this precious resource. *And the best way to do that, is to go to the source, and listen to you!* Find more information about us online at [www.wisconsinlakes.org](http://www.wisconsinlakes.org), or call 608.661.4313 to begin scheduling a listening session for your group.

## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS INVASIVE PLANT?



**Impacts on forests** – Out-competes tree seedlings & other native vegetation, and adversely affects native insects and other wildlife.

### First-year plants

Garlic mustard is a biennial; it has a two-year life cycle. Seeds germinate in April. Seedlings are shown below. Note oak leaves for size comparison.



**Leaves:** Clusters of 3-8 rounded to kidney-shaped leaves develop at ground level during the first growing season. They have scalloped edges, a wrinkled appearance, and remain green all winter.



### Second-year plants

**Flowers:** Small (1/4 inch), white, 4 petals, on the end of the main stem and side branches, blooms April through June.

**Leaves:** Heart-shaped to triangular, 1-3 inches wide, coarsely toothed on edges, alternate on the stem, give off a garlic odor when crushed.

**Height:** Flowering stalks grow 1-4 feet tall.

**Roots:** Taproot is slender, white, and often has an S-shaped bend near the top.

**Seeds:** Capsules appear soon after flowering and quickly lengthen. Seeds are small, produced in a row inside the capsule, and black when ripe. More than 100 seeds per plant.



**In the July NWJ, learn how to control this invasive species!**

### Northwoods Journal Online

Would you like to read current issues of the *Northwoods Journal* online? Go to [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) and click on the link at the bottom of the page. We can even send you an e-mail reminder when each new issue is posted on our website. Please contact Anne Warren, Information & Education Specialist, at [awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com) or call 715-732-7784 for more information.



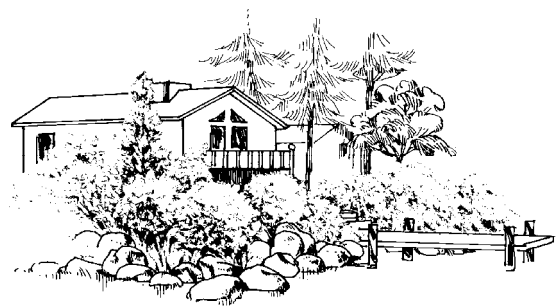




## Shoreland Zoning Changes on Tap for 2012 – NR 115

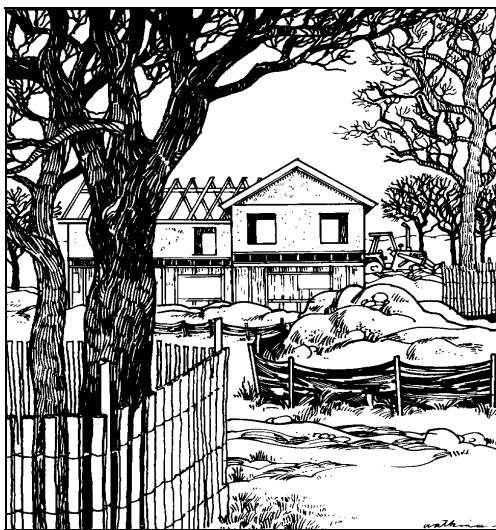
Here in Wisconsin we are blessed with abundant water resources - in Marinette County alone, there are over 400 inland lakes and 1,200 miles of streams. The Wisconsin Constitution holds that all natural lakes and navigable waters are part of the “public trust”. This “public trust doctrine” protects the public interest in lakes and streams with respect to water quality, fishing and hunting, recreation, and natural scenic beauty.

In 1968, in an effort to protect our lakes and streams, the State of Wisconsin required every county to adopt and enforce minimum standards designed to limit the impact of shoreline development. These standards regulate, among other things, the placement of structures near the shoreline and removal of shoreland vegetation. Today’s shoreland zoning regulations are based on that 1968 law, and while there have been minor changes over the years, the rule has remained largely unchanged - until now!



On February 1, 2010 - after more than seven years of study, public meetings, and hearings - the State passed its first major revision to Wisconsin’s **Shoreland Protection Program (NR 115)**. The revisions reflect our increased knowledge of the effects of shoreline development on habitat and water quality. As before, each individual County will be required to adopt and enforce the new State standards. So what will this mean for Marinette County? Below is a discussion of the more common shoreline standards and how the new State rules might affect them.

- **Water Frontage & Lot Size** – The new State standard does not change minimum water frontage or lot size. Marinette County currently classifies lakes and streams based on past development and sensitivity to pollution. Each lake or stream is placed in one of three “classes”, each with its own minimum lot size and water frontage. The new standard will not require a change in our rules.
- **Shoreline Setback** – The new standard leaves in place the 75-foot setback required under current shoreland zoning rules.
- **Vegetation Protection** – Again, the rule does not increase the area where vegetation is protected. However, it does better define what is allowable and make the rule easier to enforce. The new standard will not require major changes in the county’s current vegetation protection rules.
- **Nonconforming Structures** – In this matter the new rule “catches up” to existing County policy by scrapping the “50% improvement” rule in favor of a system allowing unlimited maintenance and repair of nonconforming structures. Under the new rule, nonconforming structures that are at least 35 feet from the ordinary high water mark may be expanded so long as all of the expansion is beyond the 75-foot setback. This differs from the current rule, which allows for the expansion of a nonconforming structure located between 35 and 75 feet, provided the



expansion does not make the structure any more nonconforming and the footprint of the structure and proposed addition does not exceed 1,500 square feet. Both the new state rule, and the existing County rule, requires habitat mitigation for the expansion or replacement of nonconforming structures.

- **Impervious Surface Standards** – The most significant change in the new state law is the inclusion of impervious surface standards. Impervious surfaces include any hard surface that significantly restricts the infiltration of rainwater such as roofs, patios, driveways etc. Under the new rule impervious surfaces are limited to 15% of the lot area that is within 300 feet of the water. Impervious surface can be increased up to 30% of the area if an approved mitigation plan is implemented. NR 115 states the mitigation measures shall be “proportional to the amount and impacts of the impervious surface being permitted”. According to NR115, mitigation activities may include such things as habitat restoration, constructing rain gardens or other practices designed to increase infiltration.

Counties have until February 1, 2012 to update their shoreline zoning ordinances to meet the State minimum standards. According to Marinette County Land Information Director John Lefebvre, the County will begin updating its ordinance in the fall and winter of 2010 with a goal of having a draft available for public inspection during the summer of 2011. Hearings and action on the revised zoning code is slated for the winter of 2011.

If you would like to be notified when ordinance drafts are posted online or receive hearing notices, contact the Marinette County Land Information Department at 715-732-7780, stop in to the Land Information office on the first floor of the Courthouse, or visit [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com) and request to be put on a shoreland zoning email contact list.

Visit the Wisconsin DNR online for more information about the new NR 115 rules: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/news.htm>. You can also contact Gregg Breese, DNR Shoreland Team Leader, by phone at (608) 261-6430.



### Where in Marinette County?

*Tell us where this photo was taken and you could win a prize!*

To enter, send a note including your name, address, and phone number or email [awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com). Any interesting facts about the subject are also welcome. Correct answers will be entered in a drawing for a tote bag. *Please respond by June 11, 2010 to be entered in the drawing.*



Congratulations to Margaret Wood of Peshtigo for winning the drawing in last September’s “Where in Marinette County” contest! The photo below is of the Menekaunee docks by Ogden Street. Thanks to all who participated last year – good luck to you in 2010’s contests!



### Parks, continued from page 3

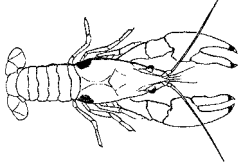
during the calendar year. However, camping reservations have to be made for a minimum of two consecutive nights. On holiday weekends, reservations must be made for a minimum of three consecutive nights. There is a \$10.00 reservation fee for camping/cabins and a \$5.00 reservation fee for lodges/shelters that is non-refundable should you decide to cancel your reservation. *Only odd-numbered sites are reservable at Twin Bridges Park & Morgan Park,* and even-numbered sites are always kept open for first-come, first-serve use.

Twin Bridges Park has a 62-site campground on High Falls Flowage of the Peshtigo River in western Marinette County. All campsites have electricity and are \$15.00/Site/Night. 31 sites can be reserved and 31 are available on a first-come, first served basis. Morgan Park provides a 32-site campground on Timms Lake in northeastern Marinette County. All campsites have electricity and are also \$15.00/Site/Night. 16 sites can be reserved and 16 sites are available on first come, first serve basis. Morgan & Goodman Parks both have large group campsites (\$50/night) that are available only by reservation. The Goodman Park cabin can be reserved for \$60/night for a minimum of two consecutive nights.

Online reservations can be made for any of the enclosed, solid log lodges (built in the 1930’s) which are available for day use rental at Lake Noquebay, Morgan, and Goodman Parks along with an open sided shelter at Menominee River Park. The fees for each are based on the number of people using the lodge. In addition, the Marinette County Fuelwood Permit allows you to cut downed and standing dead wood on Marinette County Forest lands. Fuelwood Permits are \$20 and good for a full year after they are purchased.



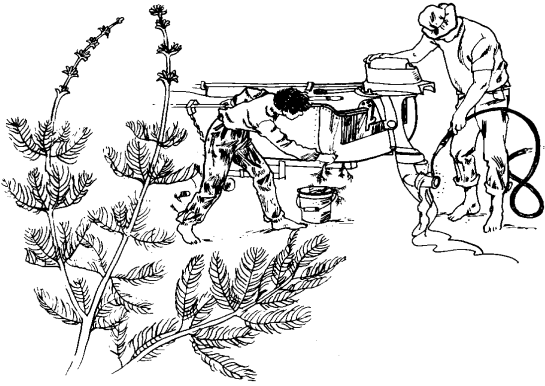




## Chapter NR 40 – Wisconsin's New Invasive Species Rule

On September 1<sup>st</sup> of last year, the Wisconsin DNR adopted a new set of rules to better prevent the spread of invasives on our land and in our waters. **Chapter NR 40** establishes a statewide program to identify, classify and control a list of over 120 such species that includes plants, fish and invertebrates. Before the rule went into place, species were not clearly categorized and classified based on their threat to the environment. That has changed with a new, comprehensive science-based system that has put the list of invasives into two categories: *Prohibited* and *Restricted*.

**Prohibited species** are those that are not currently found in WI, with the exception of small pioneer stands of plants and aquatic species that are isolated to a specific watershed in the state or Great Lakes and are likely to survive, spread and potentially cause negative impacts if introduced here. Simply put, these are the potential future invaders that biologists know about. **Restricted species** are the current invaders that have become established in the state and have caused or are causing negative environmental and economic impacts.



So how does this rule and classification system help prevent and contain invasive species? By identifying prohibited species threats that are not yet found or widespread, but would likely to wreak havoc if they were introduced, swifter action can be taken to contain new infestations found in the state. The rule will call for proactive control activities to occur before the problem gets out of hand. And by identifying the established restricted species that are already problematic in parts of the state, efforts can be focused on education and awareness to help citizens become involved in slowing the spread and minimizing new introductions of the more common restricted species found. By having a clear list of threatening species and preventative measures in place, everyone from federal agencies to citizen volunteers can be more proactive in slowing the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species in Wisconsin.



Specialists dwarfed by Phragmites infest at Lake Sammamish  
*Infestation of Phragmites, or the Common Reed*

In addition to species identification, classification and control, NR 40 also includes preventative measures that focus on the more common pathways that lead to the spread of invasives. Most of us are aware that invasives, especially aquatic invasive species (AIS), are

mostly spread with the help of humans, hitchhiking on the same equipment we use for recreation such as boats and trailers. Unfortunately, many AIS have been introduced and spread in our waterways because people have transported invasive plants and animals from lake to lake on their equipment.

It should be commonplace for boaters and anglers to always inspect and remove all aquatic plants and animals, drain all water, and wash/dry equipment. A few simple steps go a long way in helping to halt the introduction and spread of invasive species in the Northwoods.



**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

### When you leave a body of water:

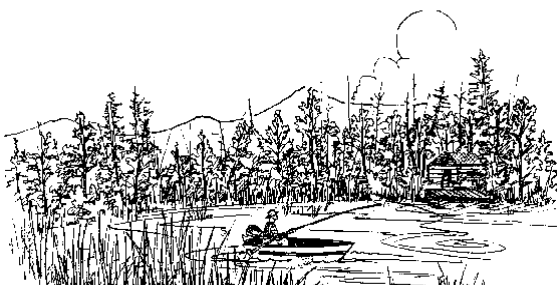
- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

NR 40, along with Act 55, toughens and complements existing invasive species laws regarding the transportation of aquatic plants and animals. These preventative measures make transporting and launching with aquatic plants and animals attached to vehicles, boats and trailers illegal and make it a requirement to remove attached species after equipment is taken out of any water in the state.

To learn more about AIS, NR 40, Act 55 and other Wisconsin DNR invasive species rules and regulations please visit the following websites:

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2010/04/invasives.htm>
- <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/aquatic/>

If you would like to learn more about preventing and controlling aquatic invasive species impacting Marinette County, please refer to the County website (Marinette County home page → Departments → Land Information → Aquatic Invasive Species) or contact Robert Ruleau, AIS Coordinator, at 715-732-7642.



## Easy Home Vegetable Gardens

By Scott Reuss, Marinette County University of Wisconsin – Extension



Home vegetable gardens come in all shapes and sizes, but they can be fairly easy to work with and still be very productive. The following are some general hints if you are starting a new vegetable garden or expanding your current garden.

### 🧺 Start small and expand over time.

Families that are new to managing a garden may become disillusioned with the multitude of activities that need to occur, so start with a smaller area or even one or two raised beds and then expand as you gain experience working with the various management activities and their timing.

### 🧺 Pick a site that is in full sun, away from wildlife movement areas, and that you can water easily.

Full sun means better production and better flavor. We absolutely need to water our vegetable gardens in our environment, providing about 1 to 1.5 inches of water each week. We also have to expect to attract rabbits, deer, and other wildlife, so place gardens where they can be more easily protected.

### 🧺 Add organic matter amendments.

The best way to increase soil health is to increase the organic matter content of the soil. This is best accomplished by digging or tilling in organic amendments. If doing so in the spring, use compost or higher nitrogen containing materials such as hay or lawn clippings. In fall, use fallen leaves (not black walnut), straw, or similar materials.

### 🧺 Consider a soil test,

to make sure that pH is correct and to fertilize correctly. In 8-12 spots in the garden, dig a column of soil about 6 inches deep and mix these sub-samples in a bucket and bring about 2 cups of this soil mix into either a soil lab or the nearest UW-Extension office.

### 🧺 Choose vegetables that will mature on time and plant them at the right times.

Although there are some management practices we can do to assist our plants, we must select shorter-season species and cultivars for our local gardens. Long-season pumpkins, watermelons, or sweet potatoes are not good choices. Planting time can also be important, as cool-season crops (radishes, kohlrabi, peas, many others) do not grow well nor taste right if they are grown during the hottest parts of the year. Conversely, planting squashes, melons, or beans prior to May 15 or 20 may cause them to get frosted; as might happen if you put tomatoes or peppers in the ground prior to June 1.







## Forest Management for Declining Scrub (Pin) Oak Forests

Contributed by Steve Kaufman, Wausaukee DNR Private Lands Forester

As the DNR Private Lands Forester for central Marinette County, there is one concern I hear more frequently from landowners than any other. That is, **“Why are my oaks dying and what can I do about it?”** These landowners have been watching their oak trees die for years in their forest and want to know what they can do about it. If you’re a landowner in this situation, this article is for you!

A note on reference to ‘scrub oak forests’: scrub oak is related to a northern red oak; however scrub oaks grow on sandier soils such as the soils that commonly exist in the towns of Beaver, Stephenson, Athelstane, Wausaukee, and the western part of Amberg. These sandy soils commonly exist in other areas of the county, but this is where they are most wide spread. One difference between scrub oak and red oak is that scrub oak trees retain small lower branches (giving them a scrubby appearance) while red oak trees usually shed these lower branches giving them a clear stem.



At left - Pin Oak leaf & at right, Red Oak leaf

### Question #1: Why are my scrub oaks dying?

While insects, disease, and drought can certainly affect trees, the primary reason is that they are about 90 years old and at the end of their life span. So it’s not the gypsy moth, wood borers, or droughts that are the main cause of decline - the main cause is old age. Of course, those other factors can speed up the process if the tree is unhealthy.

Most of the oak forests in Marinette County are *even-aged forests*, meaning that all the trees in the forest are close to the same age. This is true for almost every oak stand I walk into. A tree five inches in diameter is often the same age as a tree 16 inches in diameter. The 16 inch tree just won the battle for sunlight and grew much faster.

So what’s the future of these scrub oak stands if left unmanaged? If you already see a number of scrub oak trees dying in your forest, it is likely the trees in that forest will continue to die at an increasing rate each year due to old age. So, essentially, the trees will “clear-cut” themselves over time and often convert to hazel brush or other non-forest vegetation.

### Question #2: What can I do to stop my oaks from dying?

The oak forests we are discussing are dominated by scrub oak trees and are reaching the end of their life span. There are often declining/dead oak trees in the forests, which is one indicator that the forest is in decline. These scrub oak stands usually grow on dry sandy soils which are especially common in areas west of Crivitz and Wausaukee.

Landowners basically have two options when deciding what to do with their declining oak forest:

#1. Do nothing

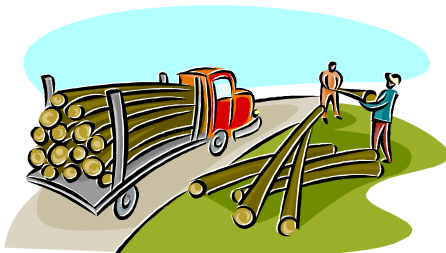
#2. Regenerate (re-grow) the forest with a new stand of trees

Option #1 will leave the forest in very poor shape in five, ten, or 15 years, as the current trees will die and the forest will often convert to hazelbrush or other non-forest vegetation, as scrub oak trees usually do not reproduce well without help from forest management. Many landowners choose this option because they don’t like the idea of cutting their forest and they want to leave the oaks stand until they die. However, doing nothing will leave future generations with a very poor forest. There is also a financial loss in allowing the trees to die before they are harvested.

Option #2 is to regenerate the forest with a new stand of scrub oak or other trees, such as aspen or red maple if they are present in the forest. The best way to regenerate a scrub oak forest is through clear-cutting, as the scrub oak will grow new sprouts from the cut stump and any seedlings present will be able to grow with the increase in sunlight. Red maples will grow from the stump as well, and any aspen will sprout new seedlings from their roots. I recommend leaving scattered trees uncut to improve the appearance of the forest after the harvest and provide wildlife habitat. Besides providing a healthy forest for the future, regenerating your scrub oak forest will provide many young trees, which is great habitat for wildlife, especially deer and grouse.

Some landowners will elect to only cut out the dead oak in their scrub oak forests or thin out the declining scrub oak trees. While this makes the woods appear healthy for a short time, it does not benefit the forest in any way.

If you need help determining how to go about harvesting from your scrub oak forest, DNR foresters and private cooperating foresters are available to assist you with conducting timber sales, helping with timber sale planning, marking the correct timber for harvest, writing a good timber sale contract, and administering the logging operation. *Having a forester assist you is probably the most important part of having a successful timber sale.*



Cooperating foresters are non-DNR foresters who have an agreement to practice sustainable forestry. These foresters are very important, as they can mark the timber to be cut and help protect the landowner’s interest when having a timber sale. They often increase the income generated from a timber sale by making sure it’s set up properly to maximize profits and that it’s a harvest that will increase the forest’s value in the future. I can supply landowners with a list of cooperating foresters that work in Marinette County.

The management recommendations above only apply to scrub oak forests. However, aging red maple, aspen and jack pine stands are also common in these sandy soils, and management is quite similar. So, call a forester to see if your forest can benefit from some carefully planned forest management.

#### DNR Forester Contacts

*Southern & Central Marinette County:* Steve Kaufman - 715-856-9157. Townships of: Beaver, Lake, Porterfield, Pound, Grover, Peshtigo, Stephenson, Silver Cliff, Athelstane, Wausaukee, Middle Inlet, Wagner

*Northern Marinette County:* John Blayney - 715-324-5730. Bruce Djupstrom - 715-324-5492. Townships of: Amberg, Beecher, Pembine, Niagara, Dunbar, Goodman

Gardens, continued from page 6

🪃 **Manage weeds.** This means doing proper thinning of the vegetable rows, too! Use hoes, hand-pulling, or mulches to help manage weeds and let your plants get the water and nutrients from your soil.

🪃 **Harvest correctly.** If harvested at the peak of maturity, your vegetables will also be at their peak flavor and optimum nutrient content.

🪃 **Experiment and have fun!** Gardening can be a great family activity that provides a large amount of the vegetables your family eats, or new vegetables for your meals.

🪃 **If in doubt, ask.** You are welcome to contact Scott or Linda in the Marinette County UW-Extension office any time you have a garden-related question. Call us at 715-732-7510, toll-free at 1-877-884-4408, or e-mail Scott Reuss at [scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:scott.reuss@ces.uwex.edu).



### Helpful Gardening Websites

- ✓ <http://wimastergardener.org>
- ✓ [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org)
- ✓ [www.communitygarden.org](http://www.communitygarden.org)
- ✓ [www.gardenweb.com](http://www.gardenweb.com)
- ✓ [www.extension.umn.edu/garden](http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden)

## Northwoods Journal

Volume 8, Issue 1

The *Northwoods Journal* focuses on various outdoor recreation opportunities and local environmental topics to inform readers about natural resource use, management, and recreation in Marinette County.

#### Published in cooperation by:

- Marinette County Land & Water Conservation Division
- Marinette County Parks & Outdoor Recreation Department
- University of Wisconsin-Extension

*UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA. To ensure equal access, please make requests for reasonable accommodations as soon as possible prior to the scheduled program. If you need this material in another format, please contact the UW-Extension office at 715-732-7510.*

Please send comments to:  
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1926 Hall Ave, Marinette, WI 54143  
(715) 732-7780  
[awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com)





## Area Events Calendar

- May 27-Sept. 2 Crivitz Flea Market.** Every Thursday through Labor Day, 8am to 4pm. Located on Henriette Ave. across from St. Mary’s Church. Contact Jean at 715-854-2030.
- June-August Bands at Badger Park.** Free musical entertainment, 6:30-8:30pm. All concerts held Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30pm with concessions available at 5:15pm. Scheduled dates: June 9, June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11 & August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- June-August Sunset Concert Series.** Free concerts Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Stephenson Island in Marinette - contact the Marinette/Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce at 715-735-6681.
- June 5 Feather & Fur Swap Meet.** Peshtigo Feed Mill, 8am-12noon. Swap small animals, birds, rabbits, pets & livestock. Buy-sell-trade. Free admission, buyers bring your own cages. For more information call Joe or Sharon at 715-582-3679, Mary or Doug at 906-753-4153, or Sandi at 715-735-7120.
- June 5 Wausaukee Area Farmers Market & More.** 9am-2pm, the first Saturday of the month through October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Located one block east of Main Street.
- June 6 Open House at Governor Thompson State Park.** Free admission, explore 16 miles of hiking trail, fish on our inland lakes or Caldron Falls Flowage. The Friends Group will sponsor a luncheon cookout at the new shelter and be available to help visitors with questions from 10am-2pm. For more information call 715-757-3979.
- June 11-13 Copperfest.** Ner Park in Oconto, Fri/5pm-midnight, Sat/11am-midnight, Sun/11am-5pm. Music, inflatable, pie and ice cream social, truck pulls, parade, street market, trout pond and much more. Advance wristbands available for \$3 adults, seniors & kids \$1. More information call Oconto Chamber of Commerce 920-834-6254.
- June 12 Interstate Stock & Custom Annual Car Show.** 7am on Stephenson Island Park, Marinette. \$5 registration and awards presentation at 2:30pm. Free event. Food, refreshments, & music.
- June 12 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Jerry Parins Cruise for Cancer Ride.** Vandervest Harley-Davidson teams up with the Green Bay Packer organization to raise money for cancer. Ride leaves at 11:30am from Peshtigo to Lambeau Field. More information call Lynn at 920-498-8822 or [www.cruiseforcancer.org](http://www.cruiseforcancer.org).
- June 12-20 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Porterfield Country Music Festival.** Live music, concessions, camping, top name artists. Green's Green Acres, 6 miles west of Marinette off Hwy 64. Call Nancy at 715-789-2207 or visit [www.countrymusicfestival.com](http://www.countrymusicfestival.com).
- June 19 Meet the Fleet at M&M Yacht Club.** 10am-4pm, take free boat rides on both power and sail boats. Call Nestegg Marine at 715- 732-4466 for reservations.
- June 20 Wausaukee Concert in the Park.** Wausaukee Evergreen Campground - 2:00 pm under American Legion Pavilion. Refreshments sold, help us fund these musicians thru donations. Come out and enjoy live music in our beautiful park setting.
- June 25-26 Relay for Life.** Marinette High School Track, starts Friday at 5pm and ends Saturday at 8am.
- June 26 Bear Point Fishing Tournament.** Bear Point Yacht Club - Hwy 180, 5 miles east of Wausaukee. Fishing starts at 6am-3pm with registration from 5-6am. For details and prize information call 715-856-6092.
- June 27 Annual Breakfast on the Farm.** Open to the public. 7:30am to 12:00pm, at N3840 N 9th Road, in Pound. Adults \$6.00, Children 6-10 - \$4.00, Children 5 & under free. Breakfast & children’s events, milking barn tours, pony rides, and more. For more information contact Corey Kuchta at 920-660-4182.
- June 27 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Art for All.** Great Lakes Memorial Marina, 10am-4pm. Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce sponsoring one day juried art show and sale.
- June 27 BAMC Menominee River Century Bike Ride.** Starts at Marinette High School. 15km, 40km, 80km and 120km routes. Fee is \$20 before June 15 and \$25 after, discounts for children 12 and under. Ten rest/water stops with food and live music. More information and to register, visit [www.mrcride.com](http://www.mrcride.com).
- July 3-4 Area 4th of July Celebrations.** Marinette, Crivitz, Goodman, Wausaukee. For more information, call local city hall or visit the county calendar at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com).

### Update on the Children’s Learning Garden at Harmony Arboretum



Work continues on the Children’s Learning Garden (CLG) at the Harmony Arboretum. We will be building an interactive sundial, a fountain, garden beds, walkways, the ‘critter’s-eye-view’ tunnel, planting the pioneer and Native American gardens, and more! Above, Marinette Middle School students work on the sundial stones, made possible by a grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation, and volunteers move the ‘pioneer cabin’ into position. Many other generous donors have contributed to this project, including the Youth Advisory Committee of the M&M Area Community Foundation; Stephenson National Bank & Trust; and the Aerial Company. Other donors include Annie’s Inc., a California-based producer of organic foods; the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation’s C.D. Besadny Conservation Grant Program; and most recently, the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB). In addition, the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association donated funds from their annual Garden Conference. To date, \$5,213.00 has been contributed to this project, which will be recognized in a special donors’ area in the garden. We are making it happen, and without our donors and volunteers, we couldn’t do it! Thank you to everyone who has helped at the CLG. If you are interested in volunteering, workdays are Thursdays from 8:30am-noon and 4-7pm. Call Linda Warren, UWEX, at 715-732-7510 for more information. The NWJ will keep you up-to-date on the progress at the Children’s Learning Garden throughout the summer.

## Harmony Arboretum Schedule of Events

Located seven miles west of the City of Marinette off of Highway 64, then ½ mile south on County E. *All programs are free unless otherwise stated.* For more information, call UWEX at 715-732-7510 or LWCD at 715-732-7780.

**May 29: Plant Sale, 9:00 am to noon** – Wide selection of plants grown by Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association (NLMGA). All funds raised will go towards education programs.

**June 8: Tree Fruit Pest Management, 6:30-8:30 pm** – Many different insect & disease pests can infest our tree fruits. Learn how to identify, monitor and manage these pests via both chemical and non-chemical methods.

**June 12 – Birding Hike** – see page 3 for details.

**June 19 – Craft Day at Harmony, 9 am-1 pm** Garden crafts to make and buy. There is a small charge for classes, but entry to gardens is free.

**July 10 – Early Vegetable Tasting & Pest Management , 10:00 am-noon** – Experience the fantastic flavors of early season vegetables as well as identify & manage vegetable pest problems.

**July 10 – Garden Walk.** Take a walk through some spectacular local gardens, including Harmony Arboretum, and help raise money for local charities! Call UWEX for more details. \$8.00 donation requested.

### Sand Lake Conservation Camp



The fifth annual Sand Lake Conservation Camp will be held at Camp Bird from June 24-26, 2010. Youth from Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula entering grades 6-8 in the fall are invited to participate. The fee is \$50 (\$65 after June 4<sup>th</sup>) and includes room, board, and all activities and programs. Visit online at [www.marinettecounty.com](http://www.marinettecounty.com). **Registration deadline is June 14<sup>th</sup> and space is limited.**

Programs cover a wide variety of topics and hands-on experiences, including wildlife habitat, water quality, fisheries, forestry, and canoeing. Returning this year are the “camper’s choice” activities, additional sessions campers attend in addition to regularly scheduled camp programs. Choice activity topics include GPS, canoeing, spinner making, tee-shirt making, archery, geology, fishing, and trapping.

**Several scholarships are available for Marinette County youth** through the Land & Water Conservation Division; if outside Marinette County, check your local county Land Conservation Department for scholarship information. For more information or questions, please contact Anne Warren, Information & Education Specialist/Camp Director, at 715-732-7784 or email [awarren@marinettecounty.com](mailto:awarren@marinettecounty.com).

